

# **AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY ON CHRONIC BACTERIAL FOLLICULITIS**

## **DISSERTATION**

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## **CERTIFICATE**

We hereby certify that the work embodied in the dissertation “**AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY ON CHRONIC BACTERIAL FOLLICULITIS**” is a record of work done by **Dr.SACHIN G. ROY**, in the Department of Dematology and Leprosy and Institute of STD, Madras Medical College, Chennai, during his postgraduate course from 2003 – 2006. This work has not previously formed the basis for the award of any degree or diploma.

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## INTRODUCTION

Since ancient times pyogenic infection is one of the commonest entity affecting man. It is especially more common in developing and the underdeveloped countries.

Factors like overcrowding, malnutrition, improper hygiene predispose to pyodermas. It has chronic course due to difficulty in achieving a long lasting cure.

Herewith two entities viz dermatitis cruris pustulosa et atrophicans, and Sycosis Barbae are dealt. An attempt is made to cater to the epidemiology of the said entities, which are some of the common causes of chronic morbidity due to bacterial infection.

## **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

### **Fundamentals of cutaneous microbiology<sup>(1,3)</sup>**

The normal human skin is colonized by huge numbers of bacteria that live harmlessly as commensal on its surface and within its follicle. Infection develops when the right combination of causative factors exist.

### **Normal flora of the skin<sup>(1)</sup>**

1. Residents
2. Temporary Residents
3. Transients

Species belonging to the normal resident flora category <sup>[4]</sup>

These include

1. Micrococcaceae (non coagulase staphylococci, micrococci)
2. Aerobic diptheroids (Corynebacterium, Brevibacterium)
3. Anerobic diptheroids (Propionibacterium)
4. Lipophilic yeast pityrosporum
5. Enterobacteriaceae
6. Other bacterias

Kloos and Schleifer scheme is now used to classify micrococcaceae rather the previously used Baird – Parker System<sup>(2)</sup>



Within the genus, *Staphylococcus*, ten different species have been regularly isolated from normal skin. *S. epidermis* is the principal staphylococcal spp, among coagulase negative staphylococci, *Staph epidermis* – (Principal Staphylococcal spp)<sup>(5)</sup>, *S. hominis* – (2<sup>nd</sup> MC)<sup>(5)</sup>, *S. capitis*, *S. cohnii*, *S. haemolyticum*, *S. saprophyticus*, *S. warneri*, *S. xylosus* have been isolated.

*Staphylococcus aureus* is not considered as resident on healthy skin although in one third of population it isolated from anterior nares<sup>(1)</sup>.

### **FLORA OF SOME SPECIALISED AREAS <sup>(1)</sup>**

Certain areas of skin have specific flora which differs qualitatively and quantitatively, which deserves mention.

#### **a. NASAL VESTIBULE**

The commonly found organism by swabbing of anterior nares is coagulase negative staphylococci, coryneforms, *S. aureus* is present as resident or rather contaminant in about 35% of healthy subject<sup>(2)</sup>.

### **FACTORS INFLUENCING THE DISTRIBUTION AND LOCALIZATION OF BACTERIAL FLORA<sup>(1)</sup>.**

Bacterial flora of the skin varies according to age<sup>(6,21)</sup> sex and racial factors. There is evidence that males carry higher number of aerobic bacterias than female.<sup>(2)</sup> Racial differences have been found in nasal carriage of S aureus in children <sup>(7)</sup>. In white individuals (at 41% positivity), black individuals (30%positivity).

### **Other factors**

Washing – Abstinence from washing does not increase the count.

A scrub bath temporarily redistribute the colonies leading to apparent reduction in density of colonization<sup>[2]</sup>

Season – External temperature and humidity in combination has shown to affect localization<sup>[8]</sup>.

Antiseptics – Antiseptics applied to skin generally removes transient flora and temporarily reduce resident organism <sup>[9]</sup>

## **BACTERIOLOGY AND PATHOGENESIS** (Epidemiology)<sup>(10)</sup>

Skin offers a good medium for growth of organism by virtue of protein, fats, carbohydrate derived as byproducts of keratinisation and water and minerals from sweat and sebaceous glands.

The ubiquitous presence of *S.aureus* and the difficulty in distinguishing among strains has made understanding the epidemiology of staphylococcal infection difficult.

Epidemiology studies utilizing phage typing techniques suggest that transfer of organism occurs via hands of personnel. Individual with open staphylococcal infection are dangerous potential carriers and transmitter of infection. Colonization of *S.aureus* may be transient or represent a prolonged carrier state. *S.aureus* produces many cellular components and extracellular products that contribute to pathogenicity. Coagulase, leucocidin and exotoxin have been implicated in pathogenesis. Host factors such as immunosuppression, glucocorticoid therapy, atopy and preexisting tissue injury or inflammation are a major determinants in pathogenesis of staphylococcal disease. *S.aureus* pyoderma occurs in individual who are nasal carriers of the organism, which when translocated onto the skin, is able to gain access via small breaks in the cutaneous integrity and cause superficial infection.

The high prevalence of staphylococcal infection is substantiated by universal presence in adults of circulating antibody to one or more cell wall antigen or extracellular toxins. The occurrence of infection despite circulating antibody suggests that hypersensitivity may play a role in recurrent staphylococcal

infection. Adhesin such as lepotchoic acid promotes close opposition between staphylococci and human cell.

### **Skin and defence<sup>(1)</sup>**

Skin has emerged as a remarkably talented immunological organ. Kligman et al- stated that primary factor determining the number and kinds of organism found on skin depends on the availability of water<sup>(1)</sup>.

Defence depends on:-

1. The nature and health of the epithelial surface including its ability to replicate and produce secretions
2. The interaction between commensal organism of normal flora and the potential parasite.
3. The cellular and humoral factors acting within the body – both classical immune mechanism and nonspecific mechanism.

Several mechanisms operate in skin to eliminate pathogenic organisms.

Periodic desquamation, desiccation, drying prevents colonization. The negative electrical charge of skin is quite effective again S aureus colonization.

Ricketts et al stated that chemical mechanism and drying was responsible for elimination of S aureus<sup>[11]</sup>

Lacey et al confirmed that extraction of fatty acid from skin diminishes resistance<sup>[12]</sup>.

Shinefield et al proved the role of bacterial interference in colonization of skin <sup>[13]</sup>.

Selwyn et al showed the importance of antibiotic production by coagulates – negative staphylococci and lipophilic diptheroids<sup>[14]</sup>

Micro organism interact and activate the serum complements to generate chemoattractants that recruits phagocytes and opsonin <sup>[3]</sup>. They can bring about the activation of antigen – antibody complex. They can induce arachidonic acid metabolism by damaging host membrane and can initiate influx of inflammatory cells through lipoxygenase dependent pathway (leukotriene Bu)

### **STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS<sup>(15)</sup>**

Staphylococcus aureus is an aggressive pathogen and most common cause of primary pyodermas, soft tissue infection and secondary infection.

**Morphology**<sup>(16)</sup> - Staphylococcus aureus is a gram positive organism. Spherical cells (1µm) usually arranged in grape like pairs, tetrads or chains is seen. Young cocci are strongly gram positive and older cultures become gram negative.

**Cultural characteristic**<sup>(16)</sup> – S.aureus grow readily on most bacteriological media under aerobic and micro-aerophilic condition. Colonies on solid media are rounded, smooth, raised and glistening. S.aureus usually form grey to golden yellow colonies. Various degrees of hemolysis is produced by S.aureus.

**Biochemical characteristic**<sup>(16)</sup> – S.aureus is coagulase positive which differentiates it from other species. Coagulase plays role in the forming of Staphylococcus abscess.

**Specific sites carriage rate**<sup>(5)</sup>

Anterior nares- 35%	{	20% - Persistent nasal carriers
		60% - intermittent
		20% - resistant to nasal colonization

Nasal carriage state<sup>(5)</sup>

Genetic factors involving bacterial adherence and immune response are implicated in nasal carriage rate<sup>(9)</sup>

In nasal passage anterior nares and mucosa of turbinates are readily colonized

Higher nasal carriage rates are seen in

1. Atopic eczema<sup>(17,18)</sup>
2. Phenylketonuria<sup>(19)</sup>
3. HLA – DR<sub>3</sub><sup>(20)</sup>

Carriage of S aureus is physiological and itself not an indication for treatment.

Permanent eradication of carriage of S aureus is not possible.

### **HOST DEFENCE FOR S. AUREUS<sup>(22)</sup>**

Main host defence against staphylococci is ingestion and killing by phagocytes.

Cell mediated response to S aureus occur but role is uncertain antibodies are of limited diagnostic and prognostic value<sup>(23)</sup>.

Conditions with increased risk of S aureus infections are :

1. Poorly controlled diabetes mellitus<sup>(24)</sup>
2. Immunosuppression therapy
3. Renal insufficiency
4. Job syndrome
5. Buckleys Syndrome<sup>(25)</sup>

6. Wiskott Aldrich Syndrome<sup>(18)</sup>

7. AIDS

### **FOLLICULITIS** <sup>(26)</sup>

It is an infection of hair follicles. It can be classified according to

1. Level of involvement of hair follicle
2. According to microbiological etiology

1. Level of involvement of hair follicle<sup>(26)</sup>

- a. Superficial folliculitis Infection at the level of follicular ostia)
  - i. Bockharts impetigo (follicular impetigo)
  - ii. Chronic folliculitis of leg
  - iii. S.aureus blepharitis
  - iv. Pseudomonas folliculitis
  - v. Gram Negative folliculitis
  - vi. Pitryosporum folliculitis
  - vii. Acne necrotica miliaris
  - viii. Pseudofolliculitis (pili incarnati)
  - ix. Physical
    - a. Traumatic folliculitis of epilation
    - b. Folliculitis beneath adhesive tape
  - x. Occupation – mineral oil or tar induced folliculitis



- xi. Actinic folliculitis
- xii. Disseminate and recurrent infundibulofolliculitis
- xiii. Trunk folliculitis
- xiv. HIV Associated
  - a. Eosinophilic pustular folliculitis
  - b. Itchy folliculitis
- xv. Folliculitis of pregnancy
- xvi. Steroid induced folliculitis

b. Deep Folliculitis (Infection at the level of hair bulb)<sup>(26)</sup>

- i. Sycosis Barbae, Lupoid sycosis
- ii. Furuncle
- iii. Carbuncle
- iv. Pyoderma faciale
- v. Folliculitis declavans
- vi. Kerion
- vii. Favus
- viii. Majocchi's Granuloma
- ix. Acne Keloidalis
- x. Acne conglobata
- xi. Perforating folliculitis
- xii. Dissecting cellulitis of scalp
- xiii. Hidradenitis Suppurativa

## 2. According to Microbiological Etiology

### **Bacterial Folliculitis**<sup>(27)</sup>

- i. S.aureus folliculitis –Bockharts impetigo
  - Chronic folliculitis of leg
  - Sycosis Barbae
  - Furuncle
  - Carbuncle
- ii. Pseudomonas - Hot tub folliculitis
  - Swimmers ear
- iii. Gram negative folliculitis - Commonly seen after
  - (Klebsiella, Enterobacter, Proteus) long term treatment
  - of acne with antibiotic.
- iv. Syphilitic folliculitis

**Viral Folliculitis** - Herpes simplex folliculitis  
Follicular molluscum contagiosum  
HIV associated folliculitis

**Fungal** -  
Dermatophyte - Tinea capitis  
Tinea barbae

Majocchi's granuloma

Candidal folliculitis

Pityrosporum folliculitis

### **Infestations**

Demodicidosis

### **Helminths**

Schistosoma - Swimmers folliculitis

Hook worm folliculitis

## **SYCOSIS BARBAE <sup>(28)</sup>**

### Synonyms

#### Non Scarring Sycosis Barbae <sup>(29)</sup>

Shave bumps

Razor bumps

Barbers itch

Barbers rash

Folliculitis barbae traumatica

Chronic Sycosis Barbae

Sycosis vulgaris

Alibert's disease III (Alibert's mentagra) <sup>[30]</sup>

#### Scarring Sycosis Barbae <sup>(28)</sup>

Lupoid Sycosis

## Ulerythema Sycosiforme

### **History:**

The word sycosis is derived from Latin element meaning 'small fig'<sup>(31)</sup>. First description of Sycosis Barbae was made by J.L.Alibert under the name Aliberts mentagra in 1825<sup>(31)</sup>.

### **Definition :**

Sycosis is a subacute chronic pyogenic infection involving the whole depth of follicle involving the beard areas of face and upper lip <sup>(28,32)</sup>

### **Epidemiology** <sup>(28)</sup>

#### **Age & Sex**

Sycosis occurs only in males after puberty and commonly involves the follicles of the beard.

Most cases begin in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> decade. There is a report of sycosis in a boy aged 14 years.

### **Prevalence**

It was commoner when more men wore mustaches or bear in preantibiotic era.

### **Aetiology**

The infecting organism is staphylococcus aureus the same phage type which can be isolated from nose<sup>(33)</sup>.

Staphylococci generally do not penetrate beyond the follicular ostia. So some unknown constitutional factors may determine the susceptibility of staphylococci to penetrate beyond follicular ostia.

### **Predisposing Factors**

1. Many patients are seborrheic with greasy complexion and chronic blepharitis<sup>(28)</sup>
2. Emotional stress (may be precipitating)
3. Trauma due to shaving
4. Sharing towels and face washers
5. It is seen that clinical and other indoor workers are affected more than those who work in open air<sup>(28)</sup>

### **Pathology**

The affected follicle is packed with polymorphonuclear leucocytes, which infiltrates its wall. Around the follicle there is chronic granulomatous infiltrate in which lymphocytes, plasma cell, histocytes and foreign body giant cell are conspicuous. The sebaceous gland, or the whole follicle, may be destroyed and replaced by scar tissue especially in lupoid sycosis<sup>(28)</sup>.

In some instance, epithelium grows down from the surface to encase both the hair and the inflammatory response, assisting their eventual transepithelial elimination<sup>(34)</sup>.

In healed cases atrophy of epidermis and hair follicles and fibrosis of dermis is present.

## **CLINICAL FEATURES**

Seen in male having moustaches and beard mostly in middle age.

Sites involved<sup>(35)</sup>

Upper lip (Moustache area)

Angle of mouth

Whole beard area

### **Symptoms**

1. Itching is the prominent symptom
2. Burning sensation
3. Patient gets uncomfortable sensation and finds it very difficult to shave.

4. Patient also complains of cheesy white maternal discharge from the lesion

Sycosis Barbae passes through 3 stages

1. Acute stage
2. Subacute stage,
3. Chronic stage
  - a. Without scarring
  - b. With scarring (lupoid sycosis)

#### **Acute stage**<sup>(35)</sup>

The essential lesion is an oedematous, red, follicular papule or pustule centered on a hair. Initially the individual papules remain discrete neglect leads to spreading to adjacent follicles leading to coalescing of the perifollicular oedema. It produces raised plaques studded with pustules classically resembling its appearance to ripe fig for which it was coined as 'sycosis'.

#### **Subacute Stage**<sup>(35)</sup>

Subacute stage is more commonly seen. The lesion may be scattered irregularly over the beard, or grouped especially on the upper lip and below angles of the jaw.

#### **Chronic Stage**<sup>(35)</sup>

- (a) Without scarring

Attacks of varying duration occurs at irregular intervals over months and years. In more chronic forms the lesions are typically clustered into plaques and may persist for very long period. A case of nearly 20 years chronicity has been reported <sup>(36)</sup>.

There is often some crusting and scaling and impetiginisation. Vegetative, almost granulomatous reactions are not unknown especially in the moustache area. The hair neither fall nor is the growth retarded despite the inflammation.

b. With Scarring

Sometimes Sycosis Barbae enters its chronic scarring form for which the term 'Lupoid Sycosis' is given

It is a variant of Sycosis Barbae that destroys the hair follicles and produces extensive scarring. Its distinguishing characteristic is a perisisting, slowly enlarging circinate patch occurring any where on the bearded area, on the temples or under the chin.

Clinically it is seen as a pink atrophic scar with permanent hair loss, surrounded by papules and pustules over the advancing margin. The atrophy is consequence of a prolonged deeply dissecting folliculitis, which destroys the hair bulb and devitalizes the deeper corium. Pitted scars may be seen in the central atrophic zone. The disease eventually burns itself out after some years.



**Lupoid Sycosis**, despite its name resembles lupus vulgaris or lupus erythematosus only remotely. Lupoid sycosis beginning high on face may extend into the scalp. This behaviour suggests a relationship with folliculitis decalvans.

Rarely a similar process affects axillary pubic hair, lower legs, thigh or arms.

## **DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS**

1. The most frequent misdiagnosis is certainly pseudofolliculitis barbae<sup>(29)</sup>

In many literature pseudofolliculitis barbae and Sycosis Barbae are considered as one and the same entity.

However following differences are worth mentioning

A. Pseudofolliculitis barbae principally occur in men who shave

B. It is generally seen in darkly pigmented skin (of African descent) having tightly curled hair.

2. Tinea barbae (Mycotic Sycosis), kerion of beard, usually occurs on chins and cheeks. *T. rubrum* and *T. mentagrophytes* are commonly implicated. It can be only confirmed after microscopic examination (Koh) of skin and hair scrapings<sup>(37)</sup>

3. Herpetic sycosis

4. Acne vulgaris can some times be mistaken
5. Klebsiella oxiatoca folliculitis resembling Sycosis Barbae (tinea barbae) has been reported in a 55 year old male, dairy farmer who was a known diabetic<sup>(59)</sup>.

## **DERMATITIS CRURIS PUSTULOSA ET ATROPHICANS (DCPA)**

### **Synonyms**

1. Clarke's disease<sup>(38)</sup>
2. Folliculitis depilates despartes glabre<sup>(39)</sup>
3. Epilating folliculitis of glabrous skin<sup>(40)</sup>
4. Folliculitis cruris pustulosa et atrophicans<sup>(41)</sup>
5. Nigerian skin disease<sup>(42)</sup>
6. Segmental folliculitis<sup>(43)</sup>
7. Chronic folliculitis of leg<sup>(44)</sup>
8. Dermoepidermis microbeinns<sup>(45)</sup>
9. Pustular dermatitis atrophicans of leg<sup>(38)</sup>

### **History**

Follicular disease of glabrous skin is known since ancient times.

First authentic reports were in French literature by Dubreuilh W. in 1895 and Arnozan X in 1897 under the term Folliculitis depilantes desparates glabres<sup>(39)</sup>.

Clarke in 1952 gave the term in Dermatitis Cruris Psutulosa et atrophicans among negroes in Nigeria<sup>(38)</sup>.

Harman used the term Nigerian Skin disease in 1968<sup>(42)</sup>

In India in 1964 Desai SL et al described it as a pyogenic folliculitis of leg with associated hypergammaglobulinaemia<sup>(46)</sup>.

Sugathan P et al described in 1973 described a similar condition<sup>(41)</sup>.

**Definition :** It is chronic pyogenic infection of hair follicle of the glabrous skin, involving most commonly the lower limb. It starts as a superficial follicle later on involving the whole depth of follicle.

## **Epidemiology**

### **Age & Sex :**

Dermatitis cruris pustulosa et atrophicans was described by Clarke as occurring in adults. Male predominance was recorded by Clarke<sup>(38)</sup>. In female patients well developed terminal hair over the shin was the prerequisite.

### **Seasonal distribution**

Peak incidence in summer month is seen.

### **Geographical distribution**

It was first reported from black African countries of Nigeria in Laos by Clarke.

### **Aeitiology<sup>(38)</sup>**

Bacterial infection with staphylococcus aureus as main causative agent has been proved regularly by culture studies staphylococcus albus has also been reported.

### **Predisposing Factors**

External application of

- a. Strong soaps and detergents <sup>(47)</sup>
- b. Coconut oil and palm oil, petroleum jelly

Trauma by : Pumice stone<sup>(39)</sup>, walking through long grass<sup>(42)</sup>, coarse stockings, contact with cow dung

- c. Ingestion of animal proteins, alcoholic drinks<sup>(41)</sup>
- d. Excessive sweating
- e. Aggravation in summer
- f. Psychological stress and sleeplessness aggravates the condition<sup>(41)</sup>.

Pardo Castello described association of folliculitis in sugarcane cutters suggesting an injury with sugarcane needles as possible precipitating cause<sup>(48)</sup>.

Coarse stockings or wearing long trousers especially in Army troops has shown as a predisposing cause.

### **Histopathology**

Lever describes subcorneal pustule in hair follicle, perifollicular infiltrate comprising predominantly of neutrophils is seen involving upper portion of hair follicle. Inflammatory infiltrate is seen perivascularly and around eccrine ducts.

Some cases acanthosis and parakeratosis were seen<sup>(49)</sup> Clarke description of moderate acanthosis, parakeratosis with polymorphous infiltration is recorded. He described papillary oedema, subepidermal infiltration with lymphocytes and plasma cells<sup>(38)</sup>.

According to Harman histopathological features can be described as active and healed case. Healed cases mostly showing atrophy of epidermis and hair follicle with fibrosis of dermis<sup>(42)</sup>.

Sugathan et al described in three stages namely early, well developed and cicatricial stages<sup>(41)</sup>.

Miller described similar features with foreign body giant cells perifollicularly, absence of elastic fibres within the cellular infiltrate and collagen fibres well atrophic and sclerosed in late stage<sup>(40)</sup>.

### **Clinical Features<sup>(41)</sup>**

It is a disease commonly occurring in adults with male predominance. Women who show well developed terminal hair over shins are more prone. Dermatitis cruris pustulosa et atrophicans is a disease affecting the glabrous skin.

### **Sites involves**

1. Lower legs mostly over the shins (most common site), it may involve bilaterally (commonly) as well as unilaterally (rarely).
2. Upper thigh
3. Dorsum of forearms
4. Upper arms
5. Dorsum of foot, scalp, trunk, and pubic hair are almost never involved.

It has some typical features.

1. Peculiar affinity to legs
2. More or less symmetrical involvement.
3. Atrophy of the skin
4. Inevitable alopecia
5. Extreme chronicity (flare ups and remission)

### **Symptoms**

Most common and important symptom is itching. Others may complain of burning sensation, pain. Symptoms vary in severity but most of the patients have an uncomfortable sensation. The patients generally do not have any systemic complaints.

General health of patient is good.

Clinical grading has been given by Sugathan et al<sup>(41)</sup>

Grade 1 : Follicular pustules with few of them having a well defined perifollicular erythema

Grade 2 : Predominant lesions are follicular pustules with significant number of infiltrated papules around broken hair. The papules show excoriation marks, crusting a

peripheral rim of white scales. Alopecia is present but not marked. Wiry roughness is felt due to broken or irregular hair.

Grade 3: Characterized by almost complete alopecia with atrophy shiny and scaly skin. Pustules are not seen but few discrete scales are seen at periphery.

The disease passes into 3 stage<sup>(41)</sup>

1. Early active stage
2. Subacute stage
3. Cicatricial or burnt out phase

1. Early active Stages<sup>(41)</sup>

The onset is commonly seen to start from lower third of legs almost simultaneously<sup>(42)</sup>. Sometimes it may start unilaterally followed by bilateral involvement.

Borders especially lower one are well defined conforming the lower limit of terminal hair at ankle. It spreads upwards to almost always involve the anterior tibial surface of leg. Dorsum of leg is never involved.

Nearly all follicles in affected area contain a pustule centered over the follicle. Perifollicular erythema can be appreciated.



## 2. Subacute stage<sup>(41)</sup>

Untreated active stage passes into this stage. Follicular pustules along with numerous infiltrated papules. Excoriated mark are seen with crusting and scaling over the lesion. Cutaneous oedema is evident by inability to pinch the skin. Wiry roughness with reduction in hair bearing follicle.

## 3. Cicatricial stage<sup>(41)</sup>

It is characterised by complete alopecia with paper atrophy of the skin while the disease has completely burnt out in one area active lesion at other areas is not uncommon.

In general no hypopigmentation or hyperpigmentation is seen.

## **TREATMENT FOR DCPA AND SYCOSIS BARBAE <sup>(15,28)</sup>**

Both of these conditions are medically managed and more or less have similar treatment modalities.

Pus Culture and Sensitivity – It is advised in all cases with pustular lesions.

Nasal Swab – Is done to detect carrier state but not routinely advised. Underlying malnutrition, anemia, nutritional deficiency,

diabetes, immunodeficiency if associated should be treated simultaneously.

Treatment divided into

- a. Treatment of carrier state
- b. Treatment of disease proper

A. Treatment of carrier state

If nasal swab indicates a carrier state then topical or oral antibiotic can be used.

- a. Topical – Intranasal 2% mupirocin for 5 days in all patient. 50% people remain organism free for 5 months <sup>(50)</sup>.

Other topical antibiotic like neosporin can be used.

- b. Bacterial interference – Nasal inoculation of *S aureus* strain 502A can be used artificially for achieving bacterial interference against more virulent *S aureus* strains <sup>(15)</sup>.

- c. Staphylococcal vaccine – Derived from lysed bacteriophage exotoxin to boost up humoral response.

**Oral** – Rifampicin 600mg/day for 7 days cleared organism for 3 months in 80% cases <sup>(51)</sup>. Clindamycin at dose 150mg/day can be used <sup>(52)</sup>.

## **PROPHYLACTIC MEASURES**

## **Precaution**

1. Patients with DCPA should be asked to avoid abrasive pumice stone, external application of oil.
2. In person with Sycosis Barbae, shaving should be avoided.  
Hair can be clipped short.

## **Hygiene**

Local hygiene in treatment of affected area is of outmost importance. Gentle daily cleaning with germicidal soap (chlorhexidine gluconate) is advisable. Application of warm compresses with saline or burrow solutions is effective. 6.25% aluminium chloride hexahydrate which has an antibacterial effect is useful <sup>(15)</sup>.

## **TREATMENT OF DISEASE PROPER**

### **Topical Therapy**

2% mupirocin, neosporin, nadifloxacin, clindamycin fusidic acid, bacitracin has all been used topically with some success.

3 – 10% silver sulfadiazine cream has also found to be effective. Opening of pustules with sterile needle with application of boric acid <sup>(53)</sup> or 1% gentian violet paint has been found to be effective.

### **Oral Therapy<sup>(54)</sup>**

Oral antibiotics depends upon the pus culture and sensitivity.

Cephalasporins	(1g/day PO for 10 days)
Cloxacillin	(1-1.5g/day PO for 10 days)
Doxycycline	(100 mg/day PO for 10 days)
Erythromycin	(1 g/day PO for 10 days)
Sulfadiazine	(4 g/day PO for 12 – 15 days)
Clindamycin	(150 – 300mg / day)

### **Sequential Therapy**

Cotrimoxazole Ds twice daily with rifampicin 600 mg/day for 10 days have been found to be effective <sup>(55)</sup>.

### **Puvasol**

Using 8 methoxypsoralen orally and sun exposure for 15 minutes with cotrimoxazole Ds twice day for 10 days has been found to be effective <sup>(55)</sup>.

This treatment has been especially useful in lupoid sycosis.

Systemic steroids with antibiotic can be tried in acute exacerbation.

## **AIMS OF THE STUDY**

Aims of the study were purely epidemiological

1. To study age and sex distribution of patient
2. To study duration and seasonal variation chronic bacterial folliculitis
3. To know precipitating factors
4. To assess microbiological aspect of the disease
5. To determine the sensitivity pattern of microorganism to various class of antibiotics

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### **SELECTION OF CASES**

- a. 50 cases of *Dermatitis cruris pustulosa et atrophicans*, 25 cases of *Sycosis Barbae* were selected over period of 16 months from January 2004 to April 2005 for study attending the Department of Dermatology and STD at Government General Hospital, Chennai.
- b. There was no exclusion criteria
- c. Diagnosis of all these cases was mainly clinical.
- d. Subsequently careful history was elicited with particular reference to the following.
  - i. Age, Sex, occupation and socioeconomic status
  - ii. Site, morphology and distribution
  - iii. Seasonal variation, duration and mode of onset and progress
  - iv. Symptoms related to each disease entity
  - v. History external oil application

All cases were thoroughly examined for specific skin lesions and for associated skin or systemic disorder.

Following investigations were done in all cases

- a) Complete haemogram
- b) Pus culture and sensitivity in all cases (pustular lesions)
- c) Gram staining for all pustular lesion
- d) Blood sugar

### **Additional Investigations**

Scraping for fungus and tzanck smear for herpetic sycosis was done where different diagnosis was suspected.

Biopsy was done only for selected cases where diagnosis was in doubt for exclusion.

## **OBSERVATIONS**

### **Age Distribution**

Age distribution in the study varied from 16 years to 52 years. (75 cases were registered).

Table I – Gives the Distribution 50 cases of DCPA

<b>Age in Years</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
16 – 20	13
21 – 25	12
26 – 30	16
31 – 35	7
36 – 40	1
41 – 45	1
46 – 50	
51 – 55	

Table II- Gives distribution of 25 cases of Sycosis Barbae

<b>Age in Years</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
16 – 20	
21 – 25	
26 – 30	4
31 – 35	8
36 – 40	5
41 – 45	5
46 – 50	2
51 – 55	1



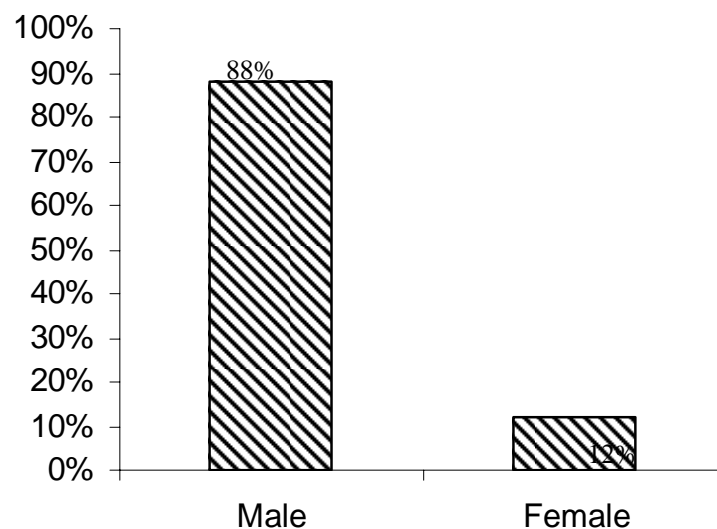
Most of the cases in the study were between the age of 26 years to 35 years.

82% of cases of DCPA were under the age of thirty. Equal percentage (50%) of patients of Sycosis Barbae was below and above the age of 35 years.

### **Sex Distribution**

75 cases were recorded in total out of which 6 cases of DCPA were female. The incidence of female was 12% in DCPA

Following bar diagram shows sex distribution.



### Occupation and Socioeconomic Status

80% of the cases belonged to low socioeconomic strata.

Table III - Shows occupation distribution of all 75 cases

Occupation	DCPA	Sycosis Barbae
Mechanic	9	1
Office	4	6
Mason	8	1
Coolie	7	3
Student	6	1
Hotel Worker	1	5
Farmer	2	1
Tailor	2	2
Printer	2	-
Housemaid	2	-
Textile Workers	1	-
Barber	1	1
Police	2	-
Rickshaw Driver	1	-
Hawker	1	1
Gardner	1	-
Business	-	2
Sweeper	-	1

Males with DCPA were mostly automobile workers (mechanics), while females (50%) with DCPA were office going. In contrast patients with Sycosis Barbae were more of office going (24%).

### **Precipitating Factors**

External oil application was the main precipitating factor in 17 cases (34%) of DCPA Psychological stress was found to be more in patent with Sycosis Barbae.

### **Seasonal**

Significant proportion of cases (80%) showed summer exacerbation.

### **Duration of the Disease**

In 70% of the cases the duration of disease varied from 6 months to 3 years. Shortest duration was 1 month. Longest duration was 5 years.

Table IV - Gives the duration of all 75 cases

<b>Duration in Years</b>	<b>DCPA</b>	<b>Sycosis Barbae</b>
0 – 0.6	12	4
0.7 – 1	17	11
1.1 – 2	10	7
2.1 – 3	6	2
3.1 – 4	4	1
4.1 – 5	1	-
Total	50	25

### **Symptoms related to cutaneous lesions**

Itching with burning sensation was the predominant symptom in DCPA.

While in patients with Sycosis Barbae burning sensation was the prominent complaint followed by inability to shave.

In females, DCPA was more of a cosmetic concern.

Table V- Shows Symptoms in 75 patients (DCPA and Sycosis barbae)

<b>Symptom</b>	<b>DCPA</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Sycosis Barbae</b>	<b>%</b>
Itching	33	66	12	48
Burning Sensation	29	58	22	88
Pain	10	20	5	20
Cosmetic Complaints	4	8	6	12
Inability to shave*	-	-	13	52

\* Inability to shave for patient in Sycosis Barbae

### **Dermatological Lesions**

Lesion in the study varied according to the stage of the disease of the patient. More follicular pustules were seen in acute stage, atrophy and scarring were seen later stages.

Table VI - Shows dermatological lesion of total 75 cases of Sycosis Barbae and DCPA

<b>Lesion</b>	<b>DCPA</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Sycosis Barbae</b>	<b>%</b>
Pustules	38	76	21	84
Erythema	11	22	8	32
Papules	32	64	12	48
Crusting	16	32	10	40
Pigmentation	12	24	2	8
Scaling	33	66	11	44
Eczema	1	2	4	16
Atrophy	27	54	3	12
Scarring*	3	6	5	20
Alopecia	27	54	15	60
Ichthyosis	9	18	3	12

\* scaring was especially looked in for in Sycosis Barbae.

Table shows follicular pustule was the predominant dermatological lesion in DCPA and Sycosis Barbae.

### **Site of Distribution**

In 50 cases of DCPA, 80% were confined to lower limb. Six cases showed concurrent involvement of upper and lower limbs. Four patients had both DCPA and Sycosis Barbae at the same time. A single case showed involvement of trunk.

In 25 cases of Sycosis Barbae. only one person had involvement of upper lip only. In all other cases beard region was involved. Below chin (submental and submandibular) area of the beard was the commonest region seen to be affected.

### **Associated Dermatological lesions**

Sycosis Barbae and DCPA was found simultaneously in four patients.

### **Dermatological lesions associated with DCPA**

Psoriasis	-	2 cases
Tinea cruris	-	3 cases
Vitiligo	-	1 case
Miliaria rubra	-	7 cases

### **Dermatological lesions associated lesion with Sycosis Barbae**

Seborrheic dermatitis	-	7 cases
Tinea Versicolor	-	4 cases
Miliaria Rubra	-	5 cases
Tinea cruris	-	3 cases
Acne	-	1 case
Albinism	-	1 case

## **Systemic associations**

In DCPA one case was found to have diabetes mellitus and four cases lymphadenopathy was seen. One case of Sycosis Barbae was found to be VDRL reactive in 1 : 4 dilution and one case was seropositive for HIV.

## **Investigation**

### **Complete Haemogram (TC, DC, Hb, ESR)**

In 75 cases recorded total count was normal in almost all cases except two cases of Sycosis Barbae showed leucocytosis.

**ESR** – was found to be normal in all cases.

**Blood Sugar** – One case of DCPA found to have diabetes mellitus which was later confirmed by glucose tolerance test.

**Blood for ELISA** – One case of Sycosis Barbae was found to have HIV seropositivity on ELISA test.

**Blood for VDRL** – VDRL was found to be reactive in 1 : 4 dilution in one patient of Sycosis Barbae. Patient did not manifest any clinical sign or symptoms of syphilis.

### **Pus Culture and Sensitivity**

Pus culture and sensitivity was done in 59 (38 cases of DCPA, 21 cases of Sycosis Barbae) out of 75 cases.

Table VII – Shows the organism cultured in both DCPA and Sycosis Barbae

<b>Organism</b>	<b>DCPA</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Sycosis Barbae</b>	<b>%</b>
Staphylococcus aureus	37	97.3	17	80.9
Pseudomonas	1	2.6	1	4.7
Proteus	1	2.6	-	-
$\alpha$ hemolytic streptococci	-	-	1	4.7
No Growth	1	2.6	4	19

### **Nasal swab culture from anterior nares**

The test was done to detect carrier state in all cases for staphylococcus aureus.

Eighteen cases of DCPA (36%) and eight cases of Sycosis Barbae (32%). Patients grew Staphylococcus aureus on nasal swab culture.

**Pus for Gram staining** - Gram positive cocci was seen in 80% cases of DCPA and Sycosis Barbae arranged in grape like cluster.



**Tzanck Smear** – It was done in only one case of Sycosis Barbae to rule out herpetic sycosis. It was negative

**Scraping of fungus** – It was done in 5 cases of Sycosis Barbae to rule out dermatophytic sycosis. It was found to be negative in all.

### **Sensitivity pattern to various class of antibiotic**

Sensitivity was tested against various class of antibiotic. The antibiotic against which sensitivity was tested was penicillin, amikacin, ciprofloxacin, ofloxacin, gentamycin, cefotaxime and cloxacillin.

Table VII: The Sensitivity pattern of 54 cases where S.aureus growth was positive is shown.

<b>No.</b>	<b>Class of Antibiotic</b>	<b>Sensitive</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Resistance</b>	<b>%</b>
1.	Penicillin	4		53	94.4
2.	Ciprofloxacin	45	79.6	12	
3.	Ofloxacin	49	87	8	
4.	Cloxacillin	56	94.1	1	
5.	Gentamycin	47	81.4	10	
6.	Amikacin	50	87	7	
7.	Cefotaxime	48	83.3	9	

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Age distribution :**

This study had patients with an average age between 20 – 30 years for DCPA and 25 – 35 years for Sycosis Barbae. Harman et al<sup>(38)</sup> observation for DCPA was 18 – 30 age group Sugathan P et al noted patients between 16 – 30 years. In this study age of patients with DCPA ranged from 16 – 30 years which correlates with the literature.

Tony Burns et al<sup>(28)</sup> noted most cases of Sycosis Barbae in third to fourth decade. In this study most cases belonged to the same age group.

### **Sex Distributions**

Over all study had 6 females. All which had DCPA with incidence of 12%.

Desai et al <sup>(46)</sup> and Clarke et al <sup>(38)</sup> noted male predominance in DCPA. Sugathan P et al noted DCPA in females with terminal hair over the shin. In this study 90% of cases of DCPA is male similar to literature. Sycosis Barbae is disease exclusive to male and so was shown in the study<sup>(28)</sup>.

## **Seasonal incidence**

Tropical environment favour DCPA and Sycosis Barbae. More than 50% of cases showed summer exacerbation which is similar to as noted by Sugathan P et al<sup>(41,28)</sup>.

## **Occupational**

Most cases of (18%) DCPA were automobile worker who had direct or indirect history of external oil application as was noted by Sugathan P et al<sup>(41)</sup>.

Sycosis Barbae showed predominance in office going people (24%) which was according to literature, where Sycosis Barbae has been stated to be more indoor worker<sup>(28)</sup>.

**Socioeconomic status** – Most of the cases (34%) were from the low economic strata which has not been documented before.

**Precipitating factors** – One third cases of DCPA had external oil application as their precipitating factor which correlated with Sugathan et al studies<sup>(41)</sup>.

Most cases of Sycosis Barbae were found to be associated with underlying psychological stress. Whether this stress had a

indirect role precipitating Sycosis Barbae was not known. No earlier such report has been documented in literature.

### **Duration of Disease**

Both DCPA and Sycosis Barbae are folliculitis with chronic exacerbation and remission. Most of the cases in this study ranged from 6 month to three years. A case with 5 years chronicity was also noted. A case of Sycosis Barbae with 20 years chronicity has been recorded in the literature<sup>(36)</sup>.

### **Symptoms**

Itching and burning sensation was found to be predominant in both DCPA and Sycosis Barbae. It is similar to finding of Sugathan P et al<sup>(41)</sup> and Meinhof et al<sup>(35)</sup>. Difficulty to shave was the next common complaint patient had in Sycosis Barbae.

### **Dermatological lesion**

Follicular pustule was the predominant lesion in both DCPA and Sycosis Barbae. Papular lesion with alopecia and atrophy was also noted in (70%) significant cases. Atrophy was seen in more 60% of patient with DCPA. Scarring was notable in some cases of (20%) Sycosis Barbae (lupoid sycosis) which is similar to

literature<sup>(28)</sup>. Scarring has also documented in DCPA in Sugathan P et al which was supported by this study<sup>(41)</sup>.

Eczema was found in the vicinity of DCPA lesion in 25% of patients. Eczema due to disease per se or irritation due to topical medicament was contemplated.

### **Distribution**

Eighty percent of cases of DCPA were located to lower limb. Some cases had concurrent involvement of forearm and beard which has been documented by Clarke et al<sup>(38)</sup> and Harman et al<sup>(42)</sup>.

Sycosis Barbae tends to affect the whole beard area. In this study the below chin region of the beard (submental and submandibular) area was most commonly found to be affected. This finding has not been reported before. There was a single case in which only moustache (upper lip) involvement was noted.

### **Associated Lesions**

In four cases of DCPA patient had concurrent Sycosis Barbae miliaria rubra was the commonest to associated lesion in DCPA. Seborrheic dermatitis was found to be present in 30% cases of Sycosis Barbae. Greasy and seborrheic skin is noted in Sycosis

Barbae in the literature<sup>(28)</sup>. One case of albinism with Sycosis Barbae has also been noted in the study.

### **Investigations :**

Bacteriology – S.aureus was found to be the major etiological agent in ninety percent cases of DCPA and Sycosis Barbae. These reports are consists with findings of Desai et al<sup>(46)</sup> for DCPA and Valentine et al<sup>(33)</sup> for Sycosis Barbae. Pseudomonas, proteus and  $\alpha$  hemolytic streptococci were also cultured. Whether they were primary etiological agent or due to secondary infection was not known.

### **Nasal Swab Culture**

Coagulase negative Staphylococci was the most common isolate found from nasal swab culture. In some cases both streptococci and staphylococcus aureus were cultured. 18 cases of DCPA (35%) and 8 cases of Sycosis Barbae (30%) showed S.aureus from culture of nasal vestibule. This correlates well with literature <sup>(2,5)</sup>.

## **Blood Sugar**

One case of DCPA (2%) was found to be diabetic with subsequent glucose tolerance test confirmation. DCPA with diabetes has not been reported.

**ELISA** – one case of Sycosis Barbae was found to be sero-positive for HIV – 1 antibody. Occurrence of Sycosis Barbae in HIV with increased frequency has not been documented. Increased frequency of seborrheic dermatitis with folliculitis as skin marker finds mention in patient with HIV and needs further study.

**VDRL** – VDRL study was done in all suspected cases. One patient of Sycosis Barbae was VDRL reactive in 1 : 4 dilution, patient had no previous history of primary or secondary syphilitic lesion nor history of previous treatment Stoke et al<sup>(56)</sup> has reported hypertrophic nodular lesion of face and follicular syphilide on back and extensor in secondary syphilis. But there are no reports of Sycosis Barbae per se. Here VDRL reactivity may be a technical error or patient had coexisting latent syphilis which needs further confirmation by specialized test (FTA – Abs) which was not done in our case.

### **Sensitivity pattern to various class of antibiotics<sup>(57)</sup>**

Staphylococcus aureus showed a notable resistance to penicillin in the pus culture and sensitivity. Cloxacillin was found to be invariable most effective antibiotic to which S.aureus was sensitive. It was followed by amikacin, ciprofloxacin and cefotaxime. These findings correlates with the literature. Penicillin G – resistant Staphylococcus aureus strains from clinical infections always produce penicillinase. They now constitute about 90% of Staphylococcus aureus isolate in community in USA<sup>(58)</sup>.



## CONCLUSION

Following conclusions were drawn from the study.

1. More common in males
2. Mean age of occurrence between 20 – 40 years
3. Tropical environment exacerbated the disease.
4. DCPA was predominantly found in automobile workers in males and office going females. People with Sycosis Barbae were more of office going.
5. Itching and burning sensation were the predominant complaints.
6. External oil application and psychological stress were the predominant precipitating factors in DCPA and Sycosis Barbae respectively.
7. The disease showed chronic exacerbation and remission over a period of months and years.
8. Lower limbs were more commonly affected in DCPA and submental and submandibular area of the beard area the most common site in Sycosis Barbae.

9. *Staphylococcus aureus* was the most common isolate from both pus culture and nasal swab culture.
10. Cloxacillin was the most sensitive antibiotics against *Staphylococcus aureus*.
11. In general patient had no systemic association.

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## MASTER CHART

S. No.	Entity	Age	Sex	Occupation	Season	PPT Factors	CLINICAL FEATURES				Associated Lesion	INVESTIGATION			
							Duration (M/Y)	Symptoms	Sites	Lesions		P & Cs	Culture of Ant Nasal Swab	Sensitivity to Antibiotics	ELISA, VDRL, Scrapping, Biopsy & Others
1.	DCPA	28	M	Office	S	-	2Y	I/P	RL, LL	Pa/Pu/S/Pi/Ey	Ecz	SA	SA	S – cef, Amk, Clox, gen, cip, ofl, R- Pe	
2.	DCPA	30	M	Mechanic	S	Oil E/A	3Y	I/B	RL, LL,LT	Pa / AT/A/S/Sc	-	-	NG		
3.	DCPA	32	M	Mason	-	-	6M	I	RL, LL	Pu/Pa/At/S/lc	MR	SA	NG	S – 2,3,4,5,7 R – 1,6	
4.	DCPA	20	F	Office	-	-	7M	I/C	RL ,LL	Pu/Pa/A/At/C/S /Cd	-	SA	NG	S – 2,3,4,5,6 R – 1,7	
5.	DCPA	24	M	Mason	-	-	1Y	I/B	RL,LL,RT	Pa/A/C/S	Ecz	-	NG		
6.	DCPA	23	M	Farmer	S	-	2Y	I/B	RL,LL,LT, RT	Pa/Pu/A/At/S/C	-	SA	SA	S – 2,3,4 R – 1,5,6,7	
7.	DCPA	18	M	Student	S	-	1Y	B	RL, LL	Pu/S/At/lc	-	SA	SA	S – 1,2,3, 4, 5, 6, 7	
8.	DCPA	20	M	Coolie	-	Oil E/A	8M	I/P	RI, LL	Pa/At/S/lc	Ecz	-	NG		
9.	DCPA	23	M	Coolie	S	-	6M	B	RL, LL	Pa/Pu/C/Ey	-	SA	NG	S – 3,4,5,6 R – 1,2,7	
10.	DCPA	24	M	Mechanic	S	Oil E/A	6M	B	RI	Pu/Pa/At/S	-	SA	SA	S -2,3,4,5,6,7 R – 1	
11.	DCPA	18	M	Tailor	-	Oil E/A	3M	I/B	RL,LL, LT	Pu/C/A/lc	Pso	SA / Pr	SA	S – 2,3,4,5,6 R – 1, 7	Diabetic
12.	DCPA	24	F	Mason	S	-	2Y	I/B/P	RL, LL	Pa / Pi / A/ At	-	-	NG		
13.	DCPA	33	M	Mechanic	-	Oil E/A	4Y	B	RL, RF, LF, Bd	Pa/Pi/S/C/At	Ecz	-	NG		
14.	DCPA	40	M	Mechanic	S	-	3Y	B/P	RL, LL	Pa/Pu/At/A/S	-	SA	NG	S – 1,2,3,4, 5,6,7	
15.	DCPA	27	M	Printer	-	Oil E/A	2Y	I/B/P	RL, LL	Pa/Pu/At/A/S	-	SA	NG	S – 2,3,4,7 R – 1,5,6	
16.	DCPA	30	M	Mason	S	-	1Y	I	RL, LL	Pa/Pu/S/lc	-	SA	SA	S-2,3,4,6 R-1,5,7	
17.	DCPA	24	M	Mason	S	Oil E/A	1M	B	RL, LL, RT, LT	Pa/Pu/S/lc	MR	SA	NG	S-2,3,4,5,6,7 R-1	
18.	DCPA	30	F	Housemaid	-	Oil E/A	3Y	I/B	RL, LL	Pa/Pu/S/C/Ey	Ecz	SA	SA	S-2,3,4,6 R-1,5,7	

S. No.	Entity	Age	Sex	Occupation	Season	PPT Factors	CLINICAL FEATURES				Associated Lesion	INVESTIGATION			
							Duration (M/Y)	Symptoms	Sites	Lesions		P & Cs	Culture of Ant Nasal Swab	Sensitivity to Antibiotics	ELISA, VDRL, Scraping, Biopsy & Others
19.	DCPA	32	M	Mechanic	S	Oil E/A	3Y	I/B	RL, LL, RF, Bd	Pa/Pi/S/A/At	Vit, MR	-	NG		
20.	DCPA	30	M	Mechanic	-	-	4Y	B/P/C	RL, LL	Pa/A/S/At/Sc	-	-	SA		
21.	DCPA	17	M	Printer	-	-	3M	I	RL, LL	Pa/Pu/S/A/Ey	MR	SA	NG	S-3,4,5,6,7 R-1,2	
22.	DCPA	22	M	Textile	S	-	1Y	I/B	RL, LL, RT	Pa/Pu/S/lc	-	SA	NG	S-4,5,6,7 R-1,2,3	
23.	DCPA	20	M	Student	-	-	1Y	I/B	RL,LL	Pa/Pu/S/Ey	TC	SA	SA	S-2,3,4,5,6,7 R-1	
24.	DCPA	16	M	Student	-	Oil E/A	3M	B	RL, LL	Pu/A/At	TC, MR	SA	SA	S-2,3,4,5,6,7 R-1	
25.	DCPA	30	F	Housemaid	-	-	1Y	I/C	RL, LL, Abd	Pa/Pi/A/At/Cd	MR	-	NG		
26.	DCPA	24	M	Student	S	-	3Y	I	RL, LL	Pi/C/At/S/lc	-	-	NG		
27.	DCPA	26	M	Barber	-	-	4Y	I/B	RL, LL,RF	Pu/Pi/At/S/Ey	TC	SA	NG	S-2,3,4,6,7 R-1,5	
28.	DCPA	28	M	Watchman	S	Oil E/A	2Y	B/P	RL, LL, RT, LT	Pu/At/A/S/C		SA/ Ps	SA	S-2,3,4,5,6,7 R-1	
29.	DCPA	30	M	Rickshaw	-	-	1Y	I	RL, LL,LF	Pu/Pa/A/C	-	SA	SA/ Ps	S-2,3,4,5,6,7 R-1	
30.	DCPA	32	M	Police	-	-	3Y	I	RL, LL	Pa/Pi/At/A/S	-	-	NG		
31.	DCPA	18	M	Coolie	S	-	8M	I	RL, LL	Pa/Pu/A/EY	Ecz	SA	NG	S-2,4,5,6 R-1,3,7	
32.	DCPA	19	M	Coolie	S	-	9M	B	RL, LL	Pu/S/C/lc	-	SA	NG	S-2,3,4,5,6,7 R-1	
33.	DCPA	45	M	Farmer	-	-	2Y	I/B	RL, LL, Bd, M	Pu/Pi/S/C	-	SA	SA	S-2,3,4,7 R-1,7	
34.	DCPA	33	F	Office	-	-	6M	I/C	RL, LL	Pu/S/C/Ey/Cd	-	SA	SA	S-2,3,4,7 R-1,5,6	
35.	DCPA	17	M	Student	-	-	1Y	B	RL, LL	Pu/S/At/C	-	SA	NG	S-2,3,4,5,6,7 R-1	
36.	DCPA	25	M	Mason	-	-	2Y	I	RL, LL	Pu/Pa/A/S	Pso	SA	NG	S-2,3,4,5,6,7 R-1	
37.	DCPA	25	M	Coolie	S	Oil E/A	1Y	I/P	RL, LL, RT	Pa/Pu/A/S	-	SA	NG	S-3,4,5,6,7 R-1,2	
38	DCPA	30	M	Hawker	S	-	4Y	B	RL, RT	Pa/Pi/At/A	-	-	NG		

S. No.	Entity	Age	Sex	Occupation	Season	PPT Factors	CLINICAL FEATURES				Associated Lesion	INVESTIGATION			
							Duration (M/Y)	Symptoms	Sites	Lesions		P & Cs	Culture of Ant Nasal Swab	Sensitivity to Antibiotics	ELISA, VDRL, Scraping, Biopsy & Others
39.	DCPA	22	F	Office	-	-	5M	B/P/C	RL, LL, LT	Pu/S/C/Sc/Cd	-	SA	SA	S-2,3,4,5,6 R-1,7	
40.	DCPA	18	M	Coolie	S	-	6M	I	RL, LL	Pu/S/C/lc	-	SA	Sa	S-2,3,6,7 R-1,4,5	
41.	DCPA	19	M	Mason	-	-	2Y	B	RL, LL, RT	Pa/Pu/At/A	-	SA	NG	S-2,3,4,5,6,7 R-1	
42.	DCPA	27	M	Mechanic	S	Oil E/A	5Y	I/B	RL, LL, RT	Pi/Pa/At/A	MR	-	NG		
43.	DCPA	26	M	Hotelworker	-	Oil E/A	3Y	I/B	RL, LL	Pa/Pu/A/At	-	SA	Sa	S-4,5,6,7 R-1,2,3	
44.	DCPA	21	M	Coolie	S	Oil E/A	1Y	B/P	RL, LL, RT	Pu/At/A/S	-	SA	NG	S-2,3,4,5,6,7 R-1	
45.	DCPA	32	M	Mechanic	S	Oil E/A	2Y	I/B	RL, LL, RT	Pa/Pu/S/A	-	SA	NG	S-1,2,3,4, 5,6,7	
46.	DCPA	30	M	Gardener	S	-	2Y	I/B	RL, LL	Pa/Pu/A/At	MR	SA	NG	S-2,3,4,5,6,7 R-1	
47.	DCPA	26	M	Mechanic	-	-	10M	B/P	RL, LL	Pu/At/S/C/	-	SA	NG	S-2,3,4,5,6, R-1	
48.	DCPA	22	M	Mason	S	-	1Y	I	RL, LL, RT	Pu/Pa/Pi/A/ S	-	NG	NG		
49.	DCPA	17	M	Student	-	-	4M	I/B	RL, LL	Pu/S/Pi/Ey	-	SA	NG	S-3,4,5,6,7 R-1	
50.	DCPA	32	M	Police	S	-	1Y	B/P	RL, LL	Pu/S/A/At	-	SA	NG	S-2,3,4,5,6,7 R-1	
51.	Sycosis Barb	32	M	Hotelworker	S	Shaving	1Y	SD	M,Bd	Pu/Ey/S/A	Seb derm	SA	SA	S-4,5,6,7 R-1,2,3	
52.	Sycosis Barb	32	M	Coolie	S	Shaving /stress	4Y	SD/B	M,Bd	Pa/Pu/C/A/ lc	-	SA	NG	S-3,4,5,6,7 R-1,2	VDRL R 1:4 dil
53.	Sycosis Barb	35	M	Hotelworker	S	Shaving /stress	5M	P/E/SD	Bd. M	Pu/C/S/A/J c	Seb Derm	SA	Ng	S-2,3,4,5,6,7 R-1	
54.	Sycosis Barb	42	M	Office	S	Shaving	2Y	I/B	Bd	Pu/C/A/S/ Cd	TV	NG	SA		Scraping -ve
55.	Sycosis Barb	40	M	Hawker	S	-	2Y	I/B	Bd	Pu/C/Ey	-	NG	NG		
56.	Sycosis Barb	45	M	Tailor	-	-	1Y	B/SD	Bd, M	Pa/Pu/Ey/lc	TC	SA	SA	S-2,3,4,5,6,7 R-1	
57.	Sycosis Barb	33	M	Barber	S	Stress	11M	P/B/I	Bd, M	Pu/S/A/C/ Ey	-	SA	NG		

S. No.	Entity	Age	Sex	Occupation	Season	PPT Factors	CLINICAL FEATURES				Associated Lesion	INVESTIGATION			
							Duration (M/Y)	Symptoms	Sites	Lesions		P & Cs	Culture of Ant Nasal Swab	Sensitivity to Antibiotics	ELISA, VDRL, Scraping, Biopsy & Others
58.	Sycosis Barbae	31	M	Office	S	Stress	7M	I/B	Bd	Pa/S/Pu/A/Cd	MR	SA	SA		
59.	Sycosis Barbae	38	M	Hotelworker	S	-	2Y	B/SD	Bd	Pa/Sc/At/Pi	-	-	NG	S-2,3,4,5,7 R-1,6	
60.	Sycosis Barbae	46	M	Mechanic	-	-	3Y	SD	Bd	Pi/Sc/At	TV/MR Seb derm	-	NG		
61.	Sycosis Barbae	47	M	Business	S	-	1Y	I/B	Bd/M	Pa/Pi/Sc/A/Cd	Tc	-	SA		
62.	Sycosis Barbae	52	M	Watchman	S	-	2M	B/P/SD	Bd,M	Pu/Ey/C/A	-	SA	NG	S-2,3,4,7 R-1,5,6	
63.	Sycosis Barbae	26	M	Office	S	Shaving	5M	B/P/SD	Bd	Pu/Ey/C/S/Cd	Sed Derm	SA	NG	S-2,3,4,5,6 R-1	Scraping -ve
64.	Sycosis Barbae	28	M	Office	S	Shaving	7M	I/B	Bd	Pu/Ey/Ec/C	-	SA	NG	S-2,3,4,5,6,7 R-1	
65.	Sycosis Barbae	34	M	Hotelworker	S	Shaving	2Y	I/B	Bd	Pa/Pu/Sc/Ey	Seb derm	SA	NG	S-2,3,4,5,6,7 R-1,3	
66.	Sycosis Barbae	43	M	Coolie	S	Shaving	1Y	B/BD	Bd	Pu/Pa/A/At	Tc	SA	NG	S-2,3,4,5,6,7 R-1	
67.	Sycosis Barbae	41	M	Farmer	S	Shaving	2Y	I/B/SD	Bd,M	Pu/Pa/A/EC	-	SA	NG	S-4,5,6,7 R-1,2,3	
68.	Sycosis Barbae	27	M	Student	-	Shaving	1Y	I/B	M	Pu/S/Ec/A/Cd	TV/MR	NG	NG		
69.	Sycosis Barbae	37	M	Business	S	-	6M	B	Bd	Pu/Ey/S/Ec/Cd	Seb Derm	SA	SA	S-2,3,4,5,6,7 R-1	
70.	Sycosis Barbae	36	M	Coolie	-	-	1Y	I/B	Bd	Pu/Ey/S/C/Sc/ Dis Nodules	Seb Derm / TV	SA	NG	S-2,3,4,5,6,7 R-1,5	Scraping -ve, HIV +ve

S. No.	Entity	Age	Sex	Occupation	Season	PPT Factors	CLINICAL FEATURES				Associated Lesion	INVESTIGATION			
							Duration (M/Y)	Symptoms	Sites	Lesions		P & Cs	Culture of Ant Nasal Swab	Sensitivity to Antibiotics	ELISA, VDRL, Scraping, Biopsy & Others
71.	Sycosis Barbae	32	M	Mason	S	Shaving	2Y	I/B/SD	Bd	Pa/Pu/A/S	MR	SA / $\alpha$ HS	NG	S-2,3,4,5,6 R-1,6	
72.	Sycosis Barbae	32	M	Office	S	-	2Y	I/B/SD	Bd, M	Pa/Pu/Ey/C	-	SA	SA	S-2,3,4,6,7 R-1,5	Scraping -ve
73.	Sycosis Barbae	31	M	Office	S	-	8M	B/SD	Bd,M	Pu/A/S/C	MR	SA /Ps	SA	S-4,5,6,7 R-1,2,3	Diabetic
74.	Sycosis Barbae	43	M	Hotelworker	-	Shaving	9M	B/P/SD	Bd	Pa/A/S/Pu	Alb	NG	Ng		Scraping -ve
75.	Sycosis Barbae	40	M	Sweeper	-	Shaving	3Y	SD	Bd	Pa/Ey/A/S	-	-	NG		Scraping -ve



## KEY TO MASTER CHART

### Entity

DCPA - Dermatitis Cruris Pustulosa et atrophicans

### Symptoms

I - Itching

B - Burning

P - Pain

SD - Shaving Difficulty

CD - Cosmetic Disability

### Sites

RL - Right Leg

RT - Right Thigh

LL - Left Leg

LT - Left Thigh

RF - Right Forearm

LF - Left Forearm

Abd - Abdomen

M - Moustache

Bd - Beard

## Lesion

Pa	-	Papule
Pu	-	Pustule
Pi	-	Pigmentation (hypo / hyper)
S	-	Scaling
Sc	-	Scarring
C	-	Crusting
Ey	-	Erythema
Ec	-	Eczema
Ic	-	Ichthyosis
A	-	Alopecia
At	-	Atrophy

## Pus and Culture Sensitivity and Nasal Swab Culture

SA	-	Staphylococcus aureus
Ps	-	Pseudomonas
Pr	-	Proteus
NG	-	No Growth
$\alpha$ HS	-	Hemolytic Streptococci

## Association

ECZ	-	Eczema
Pso	-	Psoriasis
Tc	-	Tinea Cruris

Tv - Tinea Versicolor

Vit - Vitiligo

MR - Malaria Rubra

Seb derm - Seborrheic Dermatitis

#### Sensitivity pattern to antibiotics

1. Pc - Penicillin

2. Cip - Ciprofloxacin

3. OfI - Ofloxacin

4. Clox - Cloxacillin

5. Gen - Gentamycin

6. Amk - Amikacin

7. Cef - Cefotaxine

R - Resistance

S - Sensitive

## PROFORMA

1. Case No :
2. Name :
3. Age :
4. Sex :
5. Occupation :
6. Address :
7. Entity : DCPA / Sycosis Barbae
8. Presenting Complaints :
  - i. Itching
  - ii. Burning Sensation
  - iii. Pain
  - iv. Cosmetic Complaint
  - v. Discharge
  - vi. Other (Specify)
9. Duration :
10. Mode of Onset :
11. Precipitating factors :
  - i. External application of oil
  - ii. Shaving
  - iii. Stress (Psychological)
12. Seasonal exacerbation : - Summer / Winter
13. Past History :
  - i. Diabetes
  - ii. HIV Status
  - iii. VDRL status
  - iv. Others

14. General Examination :

15. Systemic Examination :

16. Dermatological Examination :

a. Site

I. if DCPA :i.Right leg, ii.Right thigh, iii. Right forearm  
iv.Left leg, v.Left thigh, vi. Left forearm  
vii. Abdomen (trunk) viii. Other (Specify)

II. If Sycosis Barbae : Moustache, Beard

b. Lesions Morphology

Papules	Scaling
Pigmentation	Scarring
Pustules	Ichthyosis
Atrophy	Crusting
Alopecia	

17. Associated Conditions :

18. Investigations :

Routine : a) Complete Haemogram – Hb  
TC  
DC  
ESR  
Platelets  
b) Blood Sugar - RBS  
c) Pus culture and sensitivity  
d) Gram staining  
e) Nasal Swabbing for culture.

## **Additional**

### DCPA

Scraping for fungus

### Sycosis Barbae

Scraping for fungus

Tzanck Smear (Herpetic Sycosis)

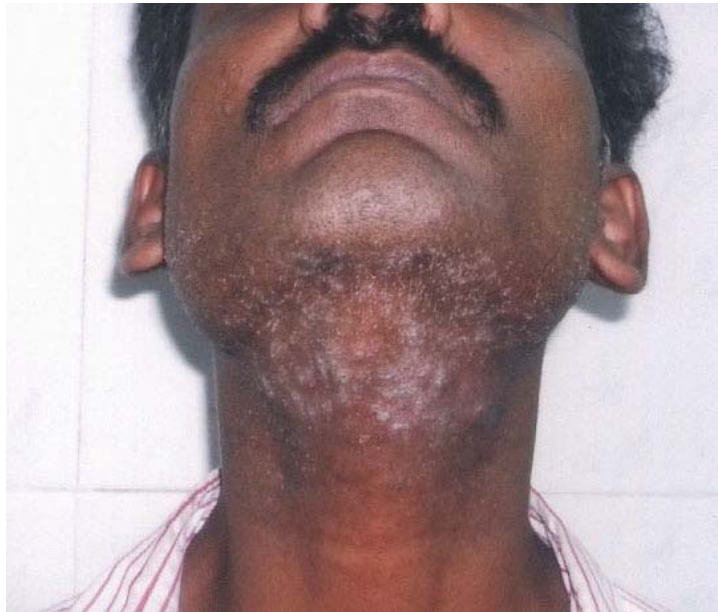
ELISA

VDRL

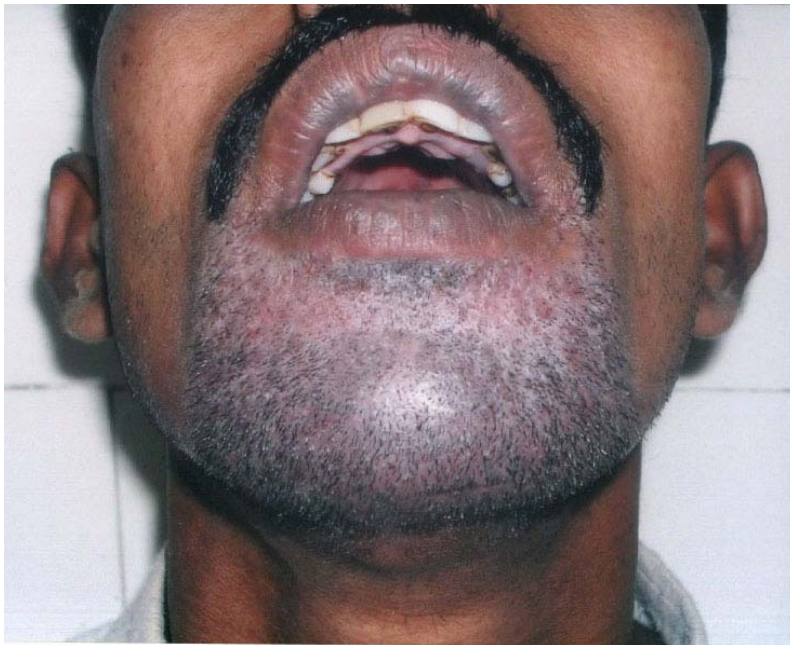
## 19. Sensitivity Pattern to different class of Antibiotics :

1. Penicillin	-	R/S
2. Ciprofloxacin	-	R/S
3. Ofloxacin	-	R/S
4. Cloxacillin	-	R/S
5. Gentamycin	-	R/S
6. Amikacin	-	R/S
7. Cefotaxime	-	R/S

**COLOUR PAGES**



**Fig.1. Sycosis Barbae Below The Chin Area  
(Submental & Submandibular)**



**Fig. 2. Sycosis Barbae with Eczematization**



**Fig.3. DCPA Over the Lower Limbs**



**FIG.4. DCPA in a Female Patient**





**FIG.5. Sycosis Barbae with Scarring (Lupoid Sycosis)**



**Fig. 6. DCPA  
Showing Eczematisation and Scarring**



**FIG.7. DCPA over the Forearms**



**FIG.8. DCPA Involving the Lower Limbs and Forearm**





**FIG.9. DCPA Involving Thigh, Shin and Forearm**



**FIG.10. DCPA Over The Abdomen**



**FIG.11. Sycosis Barbae in an Albino Patient**

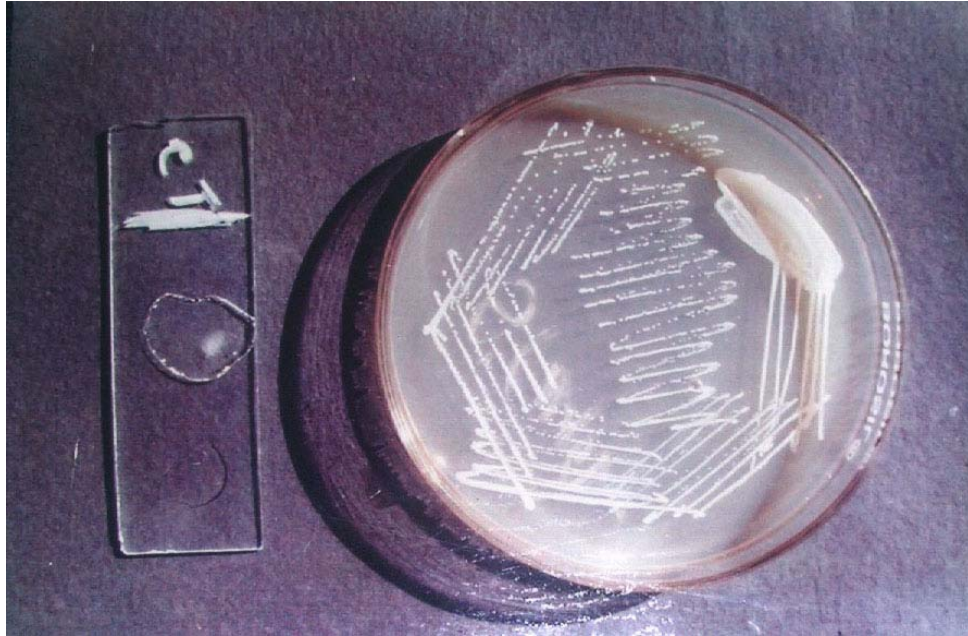


**FIG.12. Sycosis Barbae HIV Seropositive Patient**

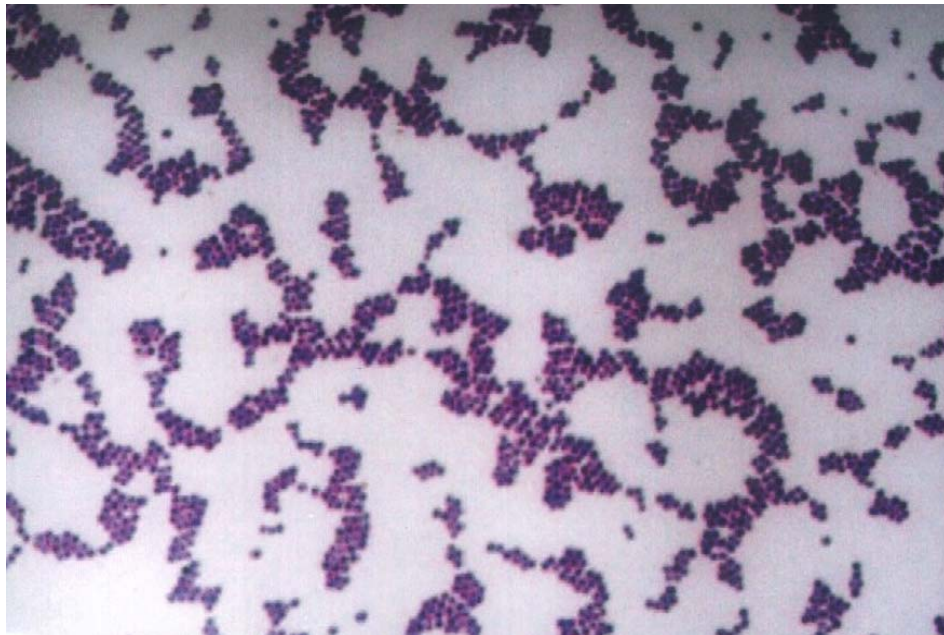


**FIG.13. DCPA and Sycosis Barbae in Same Patient**





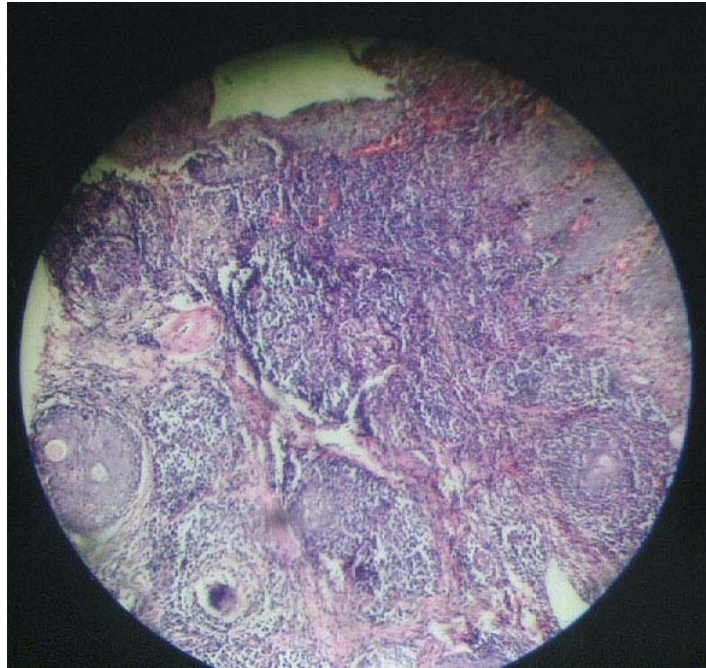
**FIG.14. S.aureus Growth on Nutrient Agar.  
Slide Shows – Coagulase Positive Test**



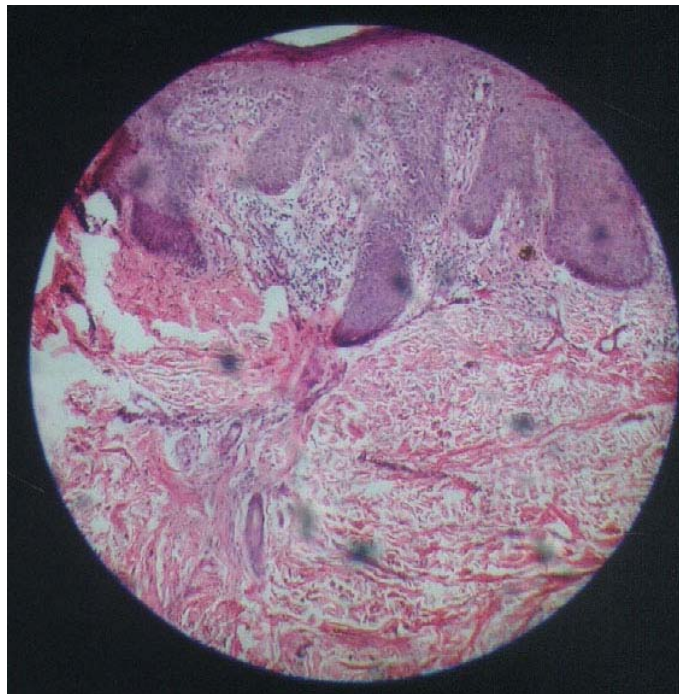
**Fig.15. Gram Positive Cocci in Grape Like Clusters in Light Microscopy**



**Fig.16. Alpha Hemolytic Streptococci Growth on Blood Agar**



**Fig.17. H & E Section Showing Dense Inflammatory infiltrate around hair follicle in Sycosis Barbae**

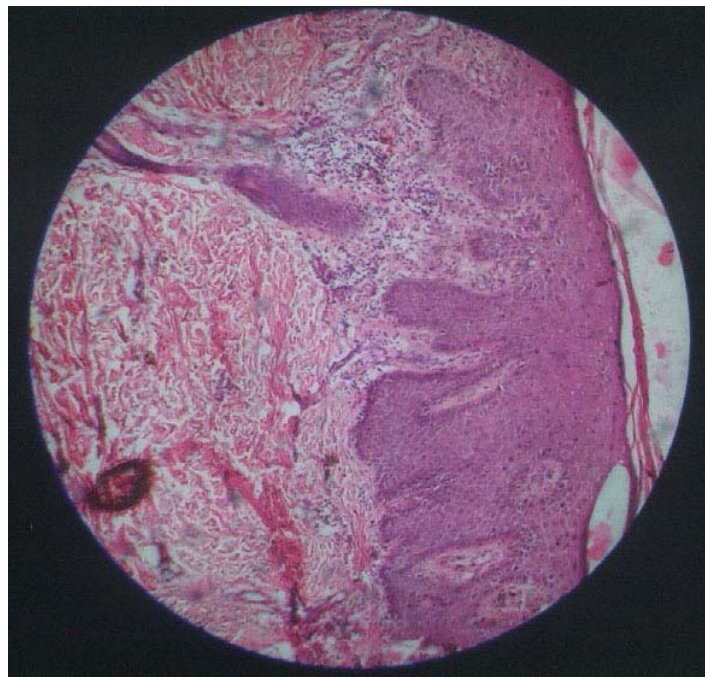


**Fig.18. H & E Section Showing Sparse Inflammatory infiltrate around hair follicle in Chronic Stage of Sycosis Barbae**





**Fig.19. H & E Section Showing Dense Inflammatory infiltrate around hair follicle in DCPA**



**Fig.20. H & E Section Showing Minimal Inflammatory Infiltrate around hair follicle in resolved case of DCPA**